

C. Remarks

The claims are 18-20 and 22, with claim 18 being the sole independent claims. Claims 1-17, 21 and 23-71 have been cancelled. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 21. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

While Applicants believe that the claims as previously presented clearly complied with formal requirements, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 16 has been cancelled and claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form with a more specific description of the polymer compound, as supported by the specification. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,958,988 (Matsushita). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,387 (Choudhery). Claims 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Matsushita or Choudhery.

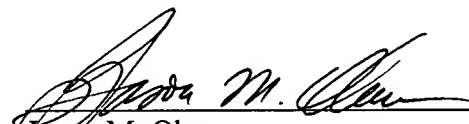
Without acquiescence, and solely to expedite prosecution, the above rejected claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

The only claims remaining in the application are claims 18-20 and 22, which the Examiner deemed to contain patentable subject matter. Wherefore, it is respectfully requested that the present case be passed to issue.

Applicants submit that they have complied with the requirement set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and therefore, believe that this Amendment should be considered and entered. The Amendment places the case in allowable form by complying with the requirements set forth by the Examiner and by cancelling the rejected and withdrawn claims without introducing any new issued requiring further consideration and/or search. Alternatively, the Amendment places the case in a better form for a possible appeal.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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